

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF EGREMONT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2015**

ATTENDING: MRS. L. ALLEN, MR. T. BERKEL, MR. R. NOVECK, MR. E. SCARBRO, MR. E. SWANSON

ABSENT: MR. M. BANDZIERZ

OTHERS ATTENDING: Mr. Richard Allen

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 5:35 PM o'clock, Mrs. Chairwoman Laura Allen presiding.**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: April 15, 2015 Approved Yes 5, No 0 1 Absent**
- 3. NOTICES:**
 - a. May 5, 2015 will be the Annual Town Meeting and a Finance Committee meeting will run concurrently as per the usual.**
 - b. The Long Range Planning Committee is to meet 1 May at 2:00 PM**
- 4. HANDOUTS:**
 - a. Mrs. Allen distributed a draft of the Finance Committee recommendations.**
 - b. Mr. Berkel distributed a partial draft of the comments for voter use.**
 - c. Members of the Committee provided some guidance on each. There was discussion on the tone and content of the various Articles as to how they be presented in comparison for the voters to deliberate.**
 - d. Mr. Berkel and Mrs. Allen would submit to Mary Brazie separately. Mrs. Brazie would make all copies and prepare materials for the Town meeting.**

5. RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>VOTED</u>
NONE			

LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES

See Schedule E attached

- 6. CITIZENS' ITEMS: Mr. R. Allen provided the Committee with an explanation of Article 24. The Committee appreciated the clarification and enhanced understanding.**
- 7. OFFICIALS' ITEMS: NONE**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS: NONE**
- 9. NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2015 at the ATM at 6:30 PM o'clock. Subsequent to that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 May at 5:30 PM o'clock.**
- 10. There being no further business to come before the Committee the session was ADJOURNED: 6:50 PM o'clock.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Thomas Berkel
Secretary, Egremont Finance Committee**

These Minutes Approved 20 May 2015; Yes 6, No 0.

**SCHEDULE B
ITEMS ON HOLD**

Approved 4/8/2015

015175.700	PlanningBdExp	3,150.00	\$1,500
015155.700	Computer Exp	38,912.00	\$36,412
NEW #	Network Adm	10,200.00	
015220.707	EmMgmExp	1,617.00	
015433.700	CompactorExp	73,070.00	
015945.740	InsProp/Casualty	97,227.00	\$98,389
015945.741	Health,DentalLife	219,740.00	\$215,000

**SCHEDULE E
LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES**

VOTED

Article 1 - Reports (No Recommendation)

Article 2 - Line Items (The Finance Committee approved 6-0, but there was discussion about the increasing scale of the Police Department Budget as it approaches half a million dollars and the need to think strategically what balance needs to be planned for in the future for Town emergency services of which the Police are a key part. Also, there was noted the desire that the Town (BOS and all Departments) adopt a standard of annual performance reviews and merit increases in pay rates as opposed to blanket increases which appear to echo or mimic the Collective Bargaining Agreement.)

Article 3 - Water Department (6-0 approved revised budget 4/8/2015)

Article 4 - Bill of prior year \$2,137.50 (The Finance Committee Recommends this be passed as it is a fiduciary obligation, and is a delinquency for which the town is responsible and the failure to pay causing harm to the Town's financial standing.)

**Article 5 - Siting by right by-law - photovoltaic (Green Comm)
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 6 - Adoption of Stretch Energy Code
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 7 - GASB 45 - \$15,000 The Finance Committee would greatly prefer this be a recurring financial line item, the BOS wish to keep this as a special article.
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 8 - Friends of Prospect Lake \$5,000 (recurring -
should be line item) Approved 5-0 with 1 abstaining**

Article 9 - On line Building Permitting module \$6,350

(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)

**Article 10 - Convert Real Estate & Personal Property tax collection and Water Department Billing program to Softright (Cost of Water Department Billing software conversion – should be in WD budget) \$14,750 (Get details)
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 11 - New police cruiser \$36,000
(Finance Committee Recommends at Town Meeting)**

**Article 12 – Costs of engineering for South Egremont School \$58,000
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 13 - Costs of engineering and repairs for Library \$102,000.
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 14 - Repair Mt. Washington Bridge - \$500,000
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0 The Committee considered recommending a canoe or ferry as less expensive to the Town, but recognized the impracticality of such a plan.)**

**Article 15 - Restoration of Proprietors' Book and Egremont School Book (letters and drawings by children) \$8,048
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

Article 16 - MACRIS \$4,000 project updating a portion of the town's historic listings (Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)

Article 17 - Highway Department – Purchase a blacktop spreader and trailer for \$18,000 (Finance Committee Recommends at Town Meeting)

Article 18 - French Park – reserving section for solar/cell tower (Green Communities Act) (Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)

**Article 19 - Aggregation agreement re: electrical power
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 20 - WiredWest - \$2,940,000
(Finance Committee Recommends at Town Meeting)**

**Article 21 - Acceptance of Chapter 90 funds
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 22 - Acceptance of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Municipal Agreement with Waste Management Recycle and Mass DEP (5 year deal).
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 23 - Revolving Funds
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 24 – Citizens’ Petition – Catamount
(Finance Committee Recommends 6-0)**

**Article 25 - Citizens’ Petition – term limits
(Finance Committee makes no recommendation)**